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The Kentucky Warbler

Volume IX

Bowling Green, Ky., October, 1933

Number 4

Our Fall Meeting—The ninth annual fall meeting of The Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Madisonville, October 6 and 7, with an excellent attendance of members and friends. On the morning of October 6 Miss Emilie Yunker, Director of School Gardens in Louisville, and Professor Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green, spoke before the three graded schools of Madisonville. Dr. Austin R. Middleton, of the University of Louisville, spoke before the Madisonville High School. At noon there was a barbecue in Spring Lake Sanctuary, attended by the members of the Spring Lake Fishing Club and by the Kiwanis Club of Madisonville. Barbecued rabbit and pork, pickles, tomatoes, sweet onions, and bread were served to more than 140 people. Immediately after the barbecue Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, the President of The Kentucky Ornithological Society, introduced Mr. Brasher C. Bacon, who took charge of the program. Dr. Middleton told of his summer in the jungles of Spanish Honduras, where he was establishing a biological station and doing field work. Dr. Wilson gave in summary his 1933 spring season finds on the temporary lake on the McElroy Farm, near Bowling Green. Dr. Frazer spoke of some of the outstanding birds of the state. Miss Yunker gave a few brief remarks on the making of feeding stations and the care of the birds in the parks of Louisville. After the program Dr. Frazer, Dr. Middleton, and Dr. Wilson remained at the lake, spending the afternoon in observations and scientific discussions.

The visiting members were entertained at dinner by Mr. and Mrs. Bacon in their home on Seminary Street. At the evening session of the club Major M. K. Gordon welcomed the club to the city, with a response by Dr. T. Atchison Frazer. Dr. Wilson spoke on the birds observed on his 1933 vacation trips to Avery Island, Louisiana, and to Sage Lake, Ogemaw County, Michigan. Dr. Middleton continued his discussion on the people and wild life in the Honduran jungles. Mr. Bacon enumerated the species of water and wading birds recorded in Hopkins County during his more than twenty-five years of observation. Dr. Frazer, by earnest request, gave some of his inimitable bird and animal calls.

At the business session Mr. Brasher C. Bacon was elected president; Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, vice-president; Miss Mabel Slack, Louisville, secretary-treasurer; and Mr. Edward M. Ray, Dr. Gordon Wilson, Miss Emilie Yunker, and Dr. Austin R. Middleton councillors.

Early on the morning of October 7 the visiting members and some local members of the Spring Lake Club met at the lake for a hike. Later in the morning they went to the city waterworks lakes, which have been taken over by the Spring Lake Club to be made into a sanctuary. Birds recorded on the two areas during the session of the K. O. S. were as follows: Red-winged Blackbird, Bluebird, Bobwhite, Indigo Bunting, Catbird, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Crow,

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Mourning Dove, Flicker, Goldfinch, Bronzed Grackle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Blue Jay, Junco, Killdeer, Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wood Pewee, Phoebe, Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher, Tufted Titmouse, Towhee, White-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Southern Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Turkey Vulture, Coot, Pied-billed Grebe, Starling.

The club voted to hold the 1934 fall meeting at Wickliffe, with outings in the great tract at the mouth of the Ohio and at Reelfoot Lake.

* * * * *

Christmas Censuses—Soon we shall be taking our Christmas bird censuses. Not enough of us have engaged in this excellent sport in past years. Begin right now to plan a census. Arrange to be out all day, on any day from December 22 to January 1. Keep a complete record of every species and every individual seen; also make a record of the weather, temperature, places visited, approximate distances covered, and time of starting and returning, with the names of the people participating. Send these records to the editor, Dr. Gordon Wilson, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green. They will be published in the January issue of *The Kentucky Warbler*.

* * * * *

Midsummer Census—Most of our members forgot to send in midsummer censuses. One that came in too late for the July issue was particularly attractive. Floyd Carpenter, of Louisville, sent in a list of 44 species and 1246 individuals, recorded from Louisville to Frankfort and Lexington, with a short walk in the knobs. Next year we ought to crowd the July issue with midsummer censuses.

* * * * *

WATER AND WADING BIRDS OF HOPKINS COUNTY (In Summary)

By

Brasher C. Bacon

- Pied-billed Grebe. Common migrant occurring in small flocks. March 12—April 25; September 11—Dec. 1.
- Loon. Rare visitant. Recorded frequently in April. In 1927 one stayed on Spring Lake from June 27 to July 24.
- Herring Gull. Fairly common migrant. Observed often from the latter part of March to the middle of April. My earliest record is January 28 and latest is May 2.
- Common Tern. Very rare migrant. Two spring records: April 2, 1926, April 6, 1933. Occurring in the fall from October 12 to Nov. 1.
- Least Tern. Very rare migrant. Three records: April 28, Oct. 2, Sept. 27.
- Black Tern. Common spring migrant. April 29 to May 12.
- Anhinga. Rare visitant. July 7, August 22, September 3.
- Double-crested Cormorant. Very rare migrant. August 27, Sept. 21, October 7, one stayed on Spring Lake from October 9 to 13.
- American Merganser. Very rare migrant. Recorded at Loch Mary Lake November 7, and November 10, Spring Lake, November 11.
- Red-breasted Merganser. Rare migrant. Several have been taken on the lakes and brought to me for identification; May 3, Nov. 6 and 7, December 2. A male of this species was captured alive on Clear Creek, November 22, 1930, and liberated on Spring Lake, where he stayed until December 5.
- Hooded Merganser. Rare migrant. March 11—March 29; October 18—November 3.

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- Mallard. Common migrant, rare summer resident. September 22-December 2; February 10-April 12.
- Black Duck. Rare migrant. February 10-April 2; October 17-November 12. Also recorded in January and December.
- Gadwall. Very rare migrant. March 24, November 1-10.
- American Widgeon. Fairly common migrant. February 27-March 28; October 26-November 28.
- Green-winged Teal. Common migrant. Occurring in small flocks, March 2-April 5; October 28-November 26.
- Blue-winged Teal. Common migrant. February 6-April 28; Oct. 12-November 27. One winter record, three on Grapevine Lake, Dec. 25, 1923.
- Shoveller. Very rare migrant. A pair were observed at Spring Lake from April 21 to April 29, a very late record. Occurring in the fall September 12-November 14.
- Pintail. Very rare migrant. February 11-April 16; October 17-Nov. 29.
- Wood Duck. Summer resident, rarely seen in winter. Growing more common along the sloughs and creeks of the county. Reported as common in Clear and Pond Creek scatters.
- Redhead. Rare migrant, rare in spring migrations. October 5-Nov. 10. Recorded several times in early April.
- Canvasback. Rare migrant. February 22-March 27; Nov. 7-Dec. 3.
- Lesser Scaup. Common migrant. Probably the commonest duck recorded in Hopkins County. Large flocks linger on the lakes until late in April. February 27-April 26; October 14-November 28.
- Ring-necked Duck. Fairly common migrant. March 2-April 1; November 2-November 25. Recorded a few times in December.
- Golden-eye. Very rare. I watched a pair at Spring Lake for thirty minutes with my glasses on November 18, 1924. One observed at Loch Mary Lake in company with seven Mallards, Nov. 8, 1929.
- Buffle-head. Rare migrant. March 22-April 28; October 2-November 18.
- Ruddy Duck. Very rare migrant. Two males taken at Lock Mary Lake November 10, 1927. Also observed at Atkinson Lake on April 12, 1930, and Spring Lake April 14, 1925.
- American White-fronted Goose. One record. One found near Watson Bridge after severe storm on October 17, 1911.
- Canada Goose. Common migrant. October 14-November 9; Feb. 14-May 12.
- Whistling Swan. Very rare visitant. On December 9, 1932, a flock of ten were reported on Grapevine Lake; five of these were killed, and some of them were brought to me for identification. On February 3, 1933, the remnants of this flock were again seen near Madisonville, and on February 4, a single bird was reported by a rural letter carrier. On September 27, 1933, another flock of ten were seen flying low over Madisonville. So far as I am able to ascertain these are the only records of the occurrence of this species in Hopkins County.
- Wood Ibis. Very rare visitant. The largest flock of this species of which I have record occurred in July, 1927. Thirty-seven birds were in this flock; they stayed for five days on the Spring Lake Refuge, completely cleaning two ponds of minnows which we were reserving for fish bait. I have also recorded this species in August and September.
- American Bittern. Fairly common migrant, rare summer resident. I have never found a nest but have seen the young unable to fly. March 14-April 22; November 12-December 2. Also recorded in June.
- Least Bittern. Common summer resident. April 6-October 3. Nests in May and June in the cat-tails around the lakes.

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Great Blue Heron. Rare summer resident. March 29-October 20.
American Egret. Rare visitant. Occurring usually in July and becoming more common in recent years. Three records for 1932, all of which were in July.
Little Blue Heron. Numerous in July and August. Probably nests, although I have never found a nesting colony. Thousands of these invaded the county in 1924.
Green Heron. Common summer resident. April 14-September 15.
Black-crowned Night Heron. Fairly common migrant. April 5-April 29.
Sandhill Crane. Recorded only at Spring Lake, April 20, 1906.
King Rail. Rare migrant. April 2-May 17; October 14-October 22.
Virginia Rail. Fairly common migrant, rare summer resident. April 7-May 15; September 16-October 13. Nested at Atkinson Lake in June, 1932.
Carolina Rail. Common migrant, more often seen in the fall migrations. April 2-May 11; August 23-September 28.
Yellow Rail. One record: September 22, 1926, Brown Meadow Lake.
Purple Gallinule. Very rare migrant. One record: Tradewater River, November 18, 1911.
Florida Gallinule. Rare migrant. Recorded occasionally in April and May.
American Coot. Common migrant. Thousands are to be found on the lakes in March and early November. February 24-May 4; September 15-November 27.
American Woodcock. Fairly common migrant, rare summer resident. March 3-December 10. Becoming more common in recent years.
Wilson's Snipe. Common migrant. March 14-May 18; September 7-December 2.
Pectoral Sandpiper. Rare migrant. April 25-May 14; September 2-Oct. 18.
Least Sandpiper. Rare migrant. April 19-May 22; August 1-Sept. 2.
Semipalmated Sandpiper. Two records: September 14 and October 2.
Greater Yellowlegs. Rare visitant. May 2, 1924, Spring Lake.
Yellowlegs. Rare visitant. Three records at Spring Lake Refuge; March 23, 1928, April 6, 1928, October 2, 1932.
Solitary Sandpiper. Fairly common migrant. April 8-May 27; August 7-October 18.
Upland Plover. Fairly common fall migrant, rare summer resident. Observed in spring on April 11 and April 22 and in the fall from October 2-October 21.
Spotted Sandpiper. Common migrant. Observed in summer but no nests found. April 2-May 20; September 10-October 17.
Killdeer. Common resident, breeds on the Spring Lake Refuge, and is common in all parts of Hopkins County.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Organized April, 1923

President.....Mr. B. C. Bacon, Madisonville.
Vice-President.....Dr. T. Atchison Frazer, Marion.
Secretary-Treasurer.....Miss Mabel Slack, 1004 Everett Ave., Louisville.
Councillors

Edward M. Ray, Fordville; Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green; Miss
Emilie Yunker and Dr. Austin Middleton, Louisville.

Meets annually in the spring in Louisville during the week of The
Kentucky Educational Association; in the fall at some town in
the state.

Dues for K. O. S. membership: adult, 50c a year; child, 25c. Address
Warbler correspondence to Gordon Wilson, Bowling Green.